

means for, upon detection of data in said second buffer, interrupting a transmission of said first data stream from the first buffer at any time during said transmission; and

means for transmitting a first switch code, wherein the first switch code comprises at least one of an indication that the data following the first switch code has a different priority than the data preceding the first switch code and that the data preceding the first switch code is the last data of a frame.

means for transmitting said second data stream to the switch fabric from the second buffer;

means for transmitting a second switch code, wherein the second switch code comprises at least one of an indication that the data following the second switch code has a different priority than the data preceding the second switch code and that the data preceding the second switch code is the last data of a frame; and

means for resuming transmission of said first data stream when there is data in the second buffer to transmit, ~~wherein the resuming transmission comprises interrupting, at any time, transmission of said second data stream.~~

- 29
- Claim 19 has been cancelled

29. (Cancelled)

- Claim 30 has been amended as following

30. (Currently Amended) An apparatus comprising:

a first buffer configured to store data of a first data stream prior to transmission to a switching fabric, said data of said first data stream having a first priority, wherein said switching fabric is comprised of a first crossbar, wherein said first crossbar is configured to receive said first data stream;

a second buffer configured to store data of a second data stream prior to transmission to said switching fabric, said data of said second data stream having a

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